

Fair, colder today. Clear tomorrow.

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## MEN OF MILLIONS MEET TO FOSTER SOCIALIST CREED

Financial Magnates, Authors and Politicians.

### IN SEARCH OF REFORM

Consultation Will Last Three Days—Jack London Late.

STAMFORD, Conn., March 3.—A three-day conference of men who have been prominent in the Socialist and Social-Democratic movement began today at "Brick House," the mansion of Anson Phelps Stokes, at Colander's Point, Darien, Conn.

Invitations to the conference were sent out by Robert Hunter, who is a son-in-law of Anson Phelps Stokes, and has been styled a millionaire Socialist, and by James Graham Phelps Stokes, who was the municipal ownership candidate for president of the board of aldermen at the last city election in New York.

Although there were present today a number of men foremost in the Socialist movement all over the country, J. G. Phelps Stokes denied tonight that the principal object of the conference was the promotion of Socialism.

**Prominent Guests.**  
Among the guests were George Fred Williams, of Massachusetts; Arthur Brisbane, of the New York American; Ernest Crosby, John Brisbane Walker, and David Graham Phillips, of New York; Senator Ford, of Brooklyn, municipal ownership candidate for comptroller in the recent New York election, and E. J. Ridgeway, publisher of Everybody's Magazine.

The Radical Socialist element was represented by Victor Berger, leader of the Socialist movement in Milwaukee; Maurice Hill Quitt, a Socialist leader of New York; H. G. Wilshire, publisher of Wilshire's Magazine; John Sparrow Butler, author of "The Cry of the Children"; Leonard B. Abbott, of current literature, and Alfred H. Bolton, of Brooklyn, a recent popular candidate for governor.

**Patterson Expected.**  
Joseph M. Patterson, the rich young Chicago Socialist who resigned yesterday as commissioner of public works, did not attend the conference today. He was expected tonight, however.

Others who received invitations, but who had not arrived up to 6 o'clock tonight, were Jack London, the author; Edward Markham, Eugene Debs, and Tom Watson.

All told there were about thirty in attendance.

**Stokes' Statement.**  
Mr. Stokes gave out this statement tonight:  
"The object of the conference is merely to get together men who have been accomplishing something along lines of political reform throughout the country and to obtain an interchange of their views, with the idea of seeing how best we can profit from their experience. Further, than that I must decline to discuss the meeting."

"I can say, however, that the principal object is not, as has been intimated, to promote Socialism, but rather to have a discussion of social political questions by men who have been foremost in political battles, particularly in the past year. Socialism, among other things, is being discussed, but a socialistic organization is by no means the object of the conference."

Mr. Stokes said the meeting was merely a repetition of a similar one a year ago on a larger scale, and the invitations were sent out by Mr. Hunter and himself.

### Father Calls Son's Socialism Fanaticism

NEW YORK, March 3.—Joseph Medill Patterson, the young Chicago millionaire, who resigned as commissioner of public works in Chicago, so that he might aid the socialist propaganda, awoke in the Holland House today to find that in the same hotel was his father, who declares that the son's new political ideas are "the wildest fanaticism."

The elder Mr. Patterson, who is the editor of a conservative independent Republican newspaper in Chicago, told the reporters that his newspaper would never advocate young Patterson for mayor or any other office upon a Socialist ticket in Chicago, so that he referred to his son's political views as a fond and indulgent father usually does to the youthful and harmless follies of an otherwise beloved son.

When he was asked what he thought of his son's notions on socialism, the millionaire said:

**Was in Legislature.**  
"My son is of age and has served one term in the Illinois Legislature and a part of a term as city commissioner in Chicago, and he is competent to do his own thinking. We are on the best of terms. He has just spent a week with me and his mother in our home in Washington."

"I am a firm believer in the doctrine of letting everybody think as he pleases—even my own son. If sons did not occasionally differ from their fathers, then we would still be living back in the dim light of Abraham. There would be no progress if some did not differ from their fathers."

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

## ONE BUSY WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE WEATHER MAN



## STORM SWEEP CENTER MEETING EMERGENCY

Work of Rescue at Meridian Goes Bravely On While Offers For Assistance Not Needed Pour In.

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 3.—Like many of the furious tornadoes of the past which have torn cities to the ground and sent men, women, and children to early graves, the one which spread death and destruction over Meridian and vicinity last night came unawares.

Not the least warning did the atmospheric conditions give a few minutes beforehand of the great storm that was to follow the clearing of the sky after it had rained all day. The storm did its work in five minutes.

From figures indicated by systematic canvass it is hoped that the death list will be lowered, although nothing definite at this time can be advanced as to the aggregate.

**Under Martial Law.**  
The district swept over by the cyclone has been placed under martial law, and national guardsmen are aiding the police in keeping back the crowds that are anxious to aid the searchers who are carefully going over the debris to ascertain absolutely that none are under the ruins.

Governor Vardaman arrived shortly after 4 o'clock on a special train bearing forty convicts. The convicts and laborers are to remain under command of General Frigate to assist in clearing away the debris.

Before striking the city proper Friday night the tornado struck and demolished the plant of the Cotton State Lumber Company at Meehan junction and caused damage there amounting to \$100,000. The mammoth plant was shattered to splinters, and fire, which followed, aided the work of destruction, wiping out all of the outbuildings.

**Then Came Meridian.**  
The mighty storm bore down on the city with a fury that knew no bounds, even after it had wrecked buildings and hurled roofs down on the heads of human beings.

First the storm struck the immense factory structure of the Meridian Paper Company, and there it was for ten minutes favored many in the employ of that concern. Twenty minutes prior fifty men were at work in that building, and had the storm come twenty minutes earlier those fifty men would undoubtedly have been crushed to death along with the seven colored men who were at work there when the wind tore the building to pieces.

From here the storm proceeded eastward and the next obstacle which it encountered in its path was the electric light plant which it damaged to such an extent that it was some time before the power could be reestablished.

**Business Section Swept.**  
The principal business street of Meridian is today a vacant strip of territory, many blocks of debris. Only one building, the Armour & Company's plant, was left standing.

Suddenly, when all in the city was quiet save the roaring of the wind and the cries of the stricken human beings, there came out of the north a hail of fire. Fires broke out in half a dozen sections of the city about the same time. The militia was called into service and all hands that were not injured or busy caring for the wounded and the dead were called into service to check the flames, which threatened to devour that part of Meridian which had not been ruined by the hurricane. The fire was checked after a hard fight.

**Searching the Ruins.**  
The search of the ruins, which is now going on, may result in many bodies being found of persons who lost their lives in their homes, which were demolished without warning.

Up to this evening there was a verified death list of eighteen whites and a number of colored people. Reports from the outlying districts are coming in very slowly.

The pathway of the storm was two

hundred yards wide and more than three miles in length, and the greatest loss of life was in the houses adjacent to the cotton mills in the east end of the city. The property loss will exceed \$1,000,000, as some five hundred houses were demolished.

**Relief Money Pours In.**  
Relief has been most prompt. At a mass meeting this noon \$8,000 was subscribed for immediate relief work, and subscriptions are pouring in from all of the cities and towns in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana, while the State Legislature has appropriated some \$5,000, which has been made immediately available.

All classes of citizens, from convicts by the State, to the richest and most prominent of Meridian residents, are working side by side searching the ruined structures for bodies that may be buried there. Hunter George, president of the local board of trade, is chairman of the relief committee, while John Doman, secretary of the board of trade, is acting as secretary of the relief work.

Following is the list of dead and injured as completed to date:  
William Nelson, former chief of police, killed in Thornton's stable.  
T. P. Parry, policeman, killed in Thornton's stable.  
Claude Williams, employee of Meyer-ville Hardware Company, killed in building.  
Mrs. Ella Singleton, killed in collapse of residence at East End.  
Maxie Slaughter, granddaughter of Mrs. Singleton, killed at same place.  
James Stewart, killed in collapse of residence at Eighth street, Georgetown.  
Clarence Stewart, fourteen, killed with father.  
John Smith, engineer Southern railway, killed in Elmira restaurant.  
Mrs. B. Smith, killed in collapse of residence, Georgetown.  
**Burned to Death.**  
Mrs. Clarke, knocked down by flying debris and burned to death at residence in Georgetown.  
Infant child of William Wright, colored, killed in collapse of residence near house.  
Pat McGinney and Cliff Edwards, killed at Hullet's undertaking establishment.  
Ben Potts, Tom Shered, Ed Brown, and John Baker, six unidentified whites.  
The injured are: Mrs. Albert Slaughter, Georgetown, may not live; Ella Bell Slaughter, seriously burned; P. P. Henderson, Mrs. Henderson, George Henderson, Johnie Bertin, Joseph N. Cowland, back broken, thirteen, will die; John Whaley, eighteen years old, leg broken; Effie Dunn, seventeen years old, severely injured; Mrs. Wilkerson, H. Keller, nineteen years old, leg broken; Sarah Wright, colored, burned and crushed; James Wright, colored boy, will die.  
**Injured While Eating.**  
Miss Jones, stenographer for Meyer Neville, badly injured by flying timber while eating supper at Elmira restaurant; J. Adams, Mobile railroad employee, struck by flying timbers near Elmira restaurant; W. V. Woodruff, employee of Meyer Neville Company, crushed under debris, will lose three toes on right foot.  
The following were injured at the Crescent City freight depot: H. W. Green, president, shoulder broken; B. H. Brown, check clerk, leg broken; Watchman Hardt, head hurt; W. L. Head, head bruised, and Oliver Macon, negro porter, arm broken.  
Governor Vardaman has issued the following appeal:  
"I find on arrival that the very destructive cyclone which struck the city of Meridian yesterday has left a great many poor people in a pitiful and destitute condition. Their homes were wrecked, household goods destroyed, and in a word, the accumulations of a lifetime have been swept away. They must be cared for and their wants supplied, and it is too much to ask the good people of Meridian to bear the burden alone. To that end, I call upon all good people of Mississippi to contribute generously to this worthy cause."  
"Let the contributions be sent to Col. H. M. Street, chairman of the relief committee, Meridian, Miss. I trust that you will act promptly in the matter."  
"JAMES K. VARDAMAN,  
Governor."  
**Fireproof Storage.**  
Merchants Transfer & Storage Co.—Adv.

## WEATHER PROVES RIOT OF VARIETY

Sunshine, Shade, Heat, and Cold in a Week.

TODAY CLEAR AND COLDER

Weather Man Promises Some Real Spring—Thunder and Lightning Came Last Night.

Determined to box the compass of meteorological possibilities in the course of the week, the weather last night added a rain and thunderstorm, accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning, to its seven-day exhibition of excitement and variety.

Out at the Weather Bureau they explain the week's phenomena with the statement that the weather is trying to find itself. The winter is over practically—and spring is here—to all practical purposes.

**All in a Week.**  
The past week produced sunshine and shade, snow and rain, high winds and perfect calms, winter and spring, in rapid succession and without apparent reason or explanation. The only stable feature of the performance was its variety. Washington never had more of that commodity in so little time in all the course of its career.

Take the matter of temperature by way of example. During the week it ranged from 16 degrees, which the mercury registered on Wednesday, to 49 degrees, which was its evening accomplishment, at 8 o'clock last night. In seven days it rang all the changes between these extremes.

One day fur overcoats were demanded, and the next day the tired traveler looked around to see what he could do with his vest.

**Display of Lightning.**  
Last night there was much rain and a sufficient display of lightning to the northwest of the city to frighten the timid into efforts to connect the performance with the tornado that carried death and destruction to Meridian and its vicinity.

The downpour of rain, however, was heavy, amounting to about six-tenths of an inch in little more than an hour.

Today it will be clear and colder; not too much colder, it is promised, but just sufficiently so to make things pleasant and bring a trifle to the blood. In other words, we are to have spring—not midsummer.

## GORMAN'S CONDITION CAUSES MUCH ALARM

Senator From Maryland Has Been Confined to His Home a Month. Denied to Callers.

The condition of Senator Gorman of Maryland, who has been confined to his home for a month without intermission, is giving much concern to his friends. He has not been well from the beginning of the session, and the winter weather has been very hard on him.

Yesterday friends who sent word to his home asking if they might call, were informed that the physicians had given instructions that nobody must be permitted to call for several days to come.

**Taggart Tells Him He Has Won Out for Place on Democratic National Committee.**

## TOM JOHNSON SAYS HE HAS DEFEATED GARBER

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 3.—Mayor Tom L. Johnson announced today that he had been elected as Ohio's member of the Democratic national committee, to succeed John R. McLean, of Cincinnati.

Forty-five of the members of the committee mailed or wired their votes to Chairman Tom Taggart, who informed the mayor at a recent conference at Xenia that he had received thirty-three votes to twelve for Congressman Harvey L. Garber and Governor Pattison.

**Fine Office Rooms for Rent**  
In the Union Building facing Pennsylvania avenue between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets. For rates and information, apply to A. D. Marks, office of The Washington Times.

## PRESIDENT REFUSES TO RECEDE AN INCH

Rejects Proposition That He Shall Save Domingan Treaty by Making Concessions on Railroad Rate Bill.

The President, according to statements for which there is the most excellent authority, could get votes enough to ratify the Santo Domingo treaty if he would be willing to do a little trading on his rate bill.

Gentlemen in high places and possessed of a measure of influence that has so often been demonstrated that it could hardly be questioned, have conveyed to the Executive the assurance that if he is willing to dicker a bit they can show something greatly to the advantage of his pet pact with the Dominican government.

In fact, they know where there are enough Democratic votes, which could be secured under proper conditions, to constitute, with the Republican membership, the necessary two-thirds vote to ratify the treaty.

**Court Review Provision.**  
The condition indicated is that the President shall submit to certain amendments to the railroad rate bill. Just what these amendments are is not disclosed, though it is understood they relate largely to the court review provision.

The Moody amendment for this purpose is not satisfactory to the Senatorial conservatives. They will like the bill much better with that amendment than they would without it; but they don't think it is just the right sort of amendment.

The Knox court review amendment looks about right to them, but the President is said to have rejected it on the ground that it was too involved and, as some of his advisers thought, liable to too many different constructions.

**Knox's Work Undone.**  
Senator Knox's work was turned over to Attorney General Moody for his expert opinion, and when he was done with it, its own father was scarcely able to recognize it. The amended form suited the President much better, and Senator Knox is said to have been decidedly displeased.

The proposal to trade a bit was heard by the President, and then rejected. He explained, according to stories of people who have been in a position to know something of the details, that he wasn't going to do any trading.

He wanted the treaty ratified, and he wanted the rate bill passed in the best possible form. But he wouldn't trade. Each Administration measure must stand on its own bottom, and if any of them failed he would take his full share of responsibility.

**MURDER TRIED AS WEAPON  
IN BIG CHICAGO STRIKE**

CHICAGO, March 3.—Today was a day of riots and other disturbances in downtown streets among the striking sanitary and excavating teams—such that it is among the Shea and anti-Shea forces of the teamsters' union.

The first trouble came when two men attempted to murder Frank Murphy, a secretary and treasurer of the Coal Teamsters' Union, was shot in the leg by a Laurence Ready, a barn foreman for the Ready & Collaghan Company, against whom one faction of the excavating teamsters called a strike. This second assault caused a riot.

**Attacked His Assailants.**  
Murphy, who was sleeping on the first floor of the building, was awakened when the men forced the door open. He jumped from the bed, and he was sleeping and attacked the men.

When the intruders heard assistance coming they struck Murphy with the knife, inflicting a serious wound, and fled.

**Foreman Shoots Teamster.**  
The second attempted murder occurred this afternoon, when William Kelly, secretary and treasurer of the Coal Teamsters' Union, was shot in the leg by a Laurence Ready, a barn foreman for the Ready & Collaghan Company, against whom one faction of the excavating teamsters called a strike. This second assault caused a riot.

**DISCUSS STATEHOOD BILL  
AT THE WHITE HOUSE**

Four of the strongest supporters of the Statehood bill in the Senate were at the White House yesterday for the purpose of conferring with the President about the situation of that measure. The friends of the bill now feel that there is grave danger of the defeat of the Administration's plans.

**MAGNATE SCHWAB DROPS  
\$2,000,000 ON MAY WHEAT**

CHICAGO, Ill., March 3.—Charles M. Schwab, the steel trust man, has dropped \$2,000,000 in the Chicago wheat market.

He has a bull on wheat and accumulated a big line of May option, in the hope that crop scares would help him out.

The market has gone almost steadily against him from 90 cents down to 78½ cents, crop scares falling to materialize.

## HUGE TIDAL WAVE SWEEPS HUNDREDS AWAY TO DEATH

Paumotu Islands De-nuded of Life and Property.

### BARK REPORTED SUNK

Official Buildings in Ruins. Property Loss Half Million.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 3.—News of a frightful cyclone and tidal wave which devastated the Paumotu group of the Society Islands on the night of February 7, reached here today on the arrival of the mail liner Mariposa. Only partial returns had been received when the Mariposa sailed from Papeete, but according to current reports, the loss of life will run into the hundreds.

**Property Loss Half Million.**  
About Tahiti proper the property loss will amount to more than half a million dollars. On the island of Marai, a great tidal wave swept almost everything away. The loss sustained by shipping is not known. A German bark is thought to have foundered with all on board. The German gunboat Zaley has been dispatched with aid for the sufferers on the various islands.

**Official Buildings Destroyed.**  
In Tahiti the customs house, postoffice and other buildings, together with dwellings, were destroyed. It is said that a large part of the inhabitants are threatened with starvation.

**Society Islanders  
Related to Hawaiians**

The Society Islands are French possessions in the South Pacific, in the Polynesian group. They lie between 15 and 18 degrees south latitude, and about 1,600 miles directly south of the Hawaiian group. They are at the western end of the broader of two bands of islands that constitute the south tropical chain, and about 2,500 miles almost directly west of Colombia, the coast of which was washed by a tidal wave about three weeks ago.

**Population About 16,300.**  
The area of the Society Islands is about 630 square miles and their population about 16,300. The principal island is Tahiti, and on it is now a fairly large colony of French. Besides Elmeo and other lesser islands of the Windward group, they include Raiatea, Bora-Bora, Tubai, Huahine, Lord Howe and a score of other smaller islands.

The archipelago was discovered by Quiros, the Spanish explorer, in 1595, and was visited by Lord Wallis in 1767 and by Captain Cook, who went there on his first great voyage in 1769, to observe the transit of Venus.

A French protectorate was declared over the islands in 1842, but it was not till 1880 that the Windward group was formally annexed, followed by the Leeward group, in 1882.

The natives are Polynesians, closely related to the countries also, with the Hawaiian natives.

Papeete is the capital of Tahiti and French Oceania, and is the largest town. Tahiti contains scarcely more than 10,000 persons, not more than 1,000 of whom are white.

**Not Shopping in Islands.**  
Every year or so the rumor is sprung that the United States is negotiating for the Society Islands. In December the French mail steamer that plies between Tahiti and San Francisco brought the report that the islands were about to pass into American hands and there was much rejoicing in consequence, even among the French residents. Secretary Root, when questioned by a Times reporter, said it was without foundation and stated that the United States was doing no Christmas shopping in islands.

**SECRET SUBPOENAS NOW  
ISSUED IN WALSH CASE**

Affairs of Defunct Chicago National Bank to Be Further Investigated by Commissioner.

CHICAGO, March 3.—Several subpoenas were issued at the instance of Assistant U. S. Attorney Childs today in the John R. Walsh case, which comes before United States Commissioner Mark A. Foote next Saturday. The subpoenas were issued by the commissioner and the strictest secrecy was maintained as to whom was cited as witnesses. Other arrests may follow.

Further preparations for the investigation of the affairs of the defunct Chicago National Bank before the April Federal grand jury were begun today.

The attorneys for Walsh were closeted in conference with the ex-banker several hours today. The subject under consideration was whether the former bank president would waive examination before Foote or fight the charges in the preliminary hearing.

It was announced today that the entire railroad holdings of Walsh had been disposed of within a few hours before the arrest of the former banker and that the Government delayed action at the instance of the clearing house until the transaction was completed.

Those who are handling the case deny that conspiracy of the sort the bank could be properly charged.

**WOULD-BE BRIDEGROOM'S  
PARENT CLAIMS REMAINS**

Two telegrams were received last night by Captain Boardman from James L. Woodson, of Rockfish, Va., father of the young man who left that town Tuesday with Miss Lola Small. In the first dispatch the parent asked to be furnished with the initials of the man who was asphyxiated by gas in the Benton Hotel, 315 C street northwest. Upon receipt of the full name of the young man the father asked that the remains be turned over to an undertaker and then shipped to Rockfish for interment.

Woodson's father asked that Miss Small come to Rockfish on the same train as the body.